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UNCLAS AMMAN 005532

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: JORDAN CONDEMNS NAJAF BOMBING

REF: SECSTATE 250578

¶1. (U) Jordanian Information Minister Nabil Sharif publicly condemned the bombing in Najaf just a few hours after the blast on August 29. In the name of the GOJ, Sharif denounced the bombing and assassination of Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim as "a hideous crime," saying that the "horrid act targeted the security and stability process in brotherly Iraq." He commented that such crimes would not serve the goals and aspirations of the Iraqi people.

¶2. (U) On receipt of ref August 31, PolCouns contacted Ali al-Ayed, Director of Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher's Private Office, and passed on the USG statements condemning the bombing. He thanked Jordan for its swift condemnation of the bombing, and urged the GOJ to continue to support the Iraqi Governing Council (GC) and Coalition efforts to restore stability to Iraq. Ayed said that senior GOJ officials were shocked by the bombing, and repeated earlier GOJ pledges to work cooperatively with the GC.

¶3. (U) CPA Baghdad minimize considered.

HALE